

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the present application, none of which have been amended.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 11-14 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *McClennon et al.* (US 6,721,355) in view of *Verbin* (US 2003/0031269). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection.

Claim 1 (and similarly Claim 11) recites a step of "in response to an amount of data that needed to be sent by said sender, adjusting a supply voltage level by said sensor to said sending driver accordingly" and a step of "transmitting data from said sender by said sending driver on said transmission line to said receiving driver according to said adjusted supply voltage level."

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed adjusting step is not disclosed by *McClennon*, but then the Examiner states that it is disclosed by *Verbin* in paragraphs 0036-0042. The Examiner also asserts that the claimed transmitting step is disclosed by *McClennon* in col. 4, lines 8-18.

According to *Verbin*, when an idle data detector 18 determines that the input data stream is idle, idle data detector 18 causes transmitter 20 to enter an idle mode (paragraph 0038). When transmitter 20 enters the idle mode, idle data detector 18 causes the power consumption by transmitter 20 to be reduced.

In col. 4, lines 8-18, *McClennon* teaches that a method for power management in a modem attached to a communications link includes monitoring a communications link for incoming data traffic, and if data traffic is detected on the communications link, the periodicity of the incoming data is determined. The power mode of the modem is then determined based on the determined periodicity of the incoming data traffic. Since *McClennon*'s teachings are related to incoming data traffic, it is not relevant to the claimed transmitting step that is related

to data to be transmitted. Furthermore, since *Verbin*'s transmitter **20** is in idle mode, which means transmitter **20** is not transmitting any data. Thus, *Verbin* does not disclose the claimed transmitting step either.

Because the claimed invention recites novel features that are not found in the cited references, whether consider separately or in combination, the § 103 is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claims 1 and 11 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against IBM Deposit Account No. **09-0456**.

Respectfully submitted,



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